

# The Circle

Rutland Town's Link between School and Community



December 2025



*Photo credit: JP Faignant*

Seen along Northwood Park's main trail. Thank you for only using native materials!

## TOWN NEWS

**By Select Board Chair Mary Ashcroft**

Police Chief Ed Dumas has announced his retirement from the Rutland Town Police Department, effective in late March of 2026. We will greatly miss Ed's expertise and dry humor, his common sense and compassion. Ed Dumas had already served over two decades as a police officer when he joined the Rutland Town force as a special officer in 2007, working with the town's first and second constables.

In those days, the constables and special officer did not have a home office "other than the entire Town of Rutland," wrote Dumas in the 2013 Town Report. "Officers would do most of their work in their cruisers and in spaces within our homes where offices would be set up."

In 2012-13 things started to change. At March 2013 town meeting, voters passed the first separate police budget, creating a department with Dumas as Chief, and Ted Washburn and James Gamble as Special Officers. A single room in Town Hall was set aside for their office.

Ten years later, that single room was bulging at the seams. Voters stepped up to approve expanded Police Department quarters at the new Public Safety Building on McKinley Avenue, which now comfortably

*Continued on pg. 3*

## RTS UPDATE

**By Principal Sarah Tetzlaff**

### Rutland Town School Celebrates Student Achievements and Community Support

I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to our community members for their continued support of Rutland Town School. Last week, our students donated an incredible 1,484 non-perishable food items to Stuff A Bus! We are proud of their generosity and spirit. Looking ahead, we are excited for our upcoming winter concerts, welcoming the Rutland Town Seniors for a luncheon later this month, and continuing a fun and engaging year of learning.

### Celebrating Excellence in Teaching

Congratulations to Jill Alderman, who was named UVM Teacher of the Year at GRCSU in-service on August 22nd.

*Continued on pg. 2*

### News from the Rutland Town Planning Commission By Barbara Noyes Pulling

#### Center Rutland Falls Pocket Park

In 2026, work to transform the vacant half-acre parcel near Center Rutland Falls and Simons Avenue into a pocket park will begin! As part of the conveyance of the pocket park parcel from Green Mountain Power (GMP) to the town, the power company is obligated by its federal licensing requirements (with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission or FERC) to show that the parcel is indeed being used for recreation. This will include GMP surveying and reporting back to FERC how the Pocket Park is being used. GMP is also obligated by its license to install a main entrance kiosk and to ensure that Indigenous input is incorporated.

For the town's part, all state and federally recognized Indigenous tribes in Vermont will be

*Continued on pg. 4*

She was honored alongside other Vermont educators at UVM on October 27th—a well-deserved recognition of her dedication and impact.

### STEM Innovation at RTS

Rutland Town School is proud to announce that we have been awarded a \$15,000 Educate Innovate Grant from the Vermont Lottery. This competitive grant supports the advancement of STEM education by funding innovative technology and instructional tools that enhance student learning and engagement. The grant application was led by 6th-grade Math and Science Teacher Jenn Tiff and 7th–8th-grade Science Teacher Katie McDougall. Their collaboration and commitment to hands-on, inquiry-based science instruction made this award possible. Representatives from the Vermont Liquor and Lottery, including the Deputy Commissioner, visited our school on Friday, October 24th, to meet staff and students, observe science classes, and see firsthand how this grant is enriching instruction. The visit included teacher interviews, classroom observations, and brief remarks from Vermont Lottery officials.

### Growing Learning Through Agriculture

Mrs. McDougall partnered with the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets to pilot a program connecting students to Vermont’s state vegetable, the Gilfeather Turnip. This spring, students received seeds and resources for growing and preparing this unique turnip and participated in a fun contest with 10–15 other Vermont schools to grow the heaviest turnip.

In October, our students harvested their largest turnip yet—approximately 4 pounds! A photo of it on the scale was submitted to the Vermont Department of Agriculture, and a bag of turnips was shared with Mr. Manieri and our kitchen staff. To celebrate, the Agency of Agriculture awarded RTS a \$100 check.

### Celebrating Arts and Music

At the October Halloween parade, our RTS Marching Band received 1st place for Best Costumed Marching Band while performing Ozzy Osbourne’s Crazy Train. Congratulations to Mr. Audet and all of our talented students!

### Looking Ahead

As we approach the new year, we continue working on our school budget with Superintendent Sell and the Rutland Town School Board. Our priority remains maintaining the high quality of education while being fiscally responsible. Currently, RTS has 333 students from Pre-K through 8th grade, with an average class size of 16 students. We also have 176 students attending various high schools in grades 9–12.



Photo credit:  
Sheri Bathalon/RTS

Thank you to our amazing RTS PTO for bringing Take Back Your Voice to our school!

Students were inspired by a powerful message about confidence, self-expression, and standing up for what’s right.

We’re so grateful to our PTO for continuing to bring meaningful, engaging programs to our students!



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THE CIRCLE is a publication of Rutland Town and Rutland Town School. The newsletter informs the community about issues of local interest. Each year five issues are published every other month from October through June. The Circle is not a public forum. The principal and Select Board have the authority to exercise editorial control over style and content of the newsletter. Newsletter staff include Janelle Faignant. For more information, mailing list changes, to advertise or contribute, email [rutlandtowncircle@gmail.com](mailto:rutlandtowncircle@gmail.com), call the RTS office at 775-0566 or mail items to: The Circle, c/o Rutland Town School, 1612 Post Road, Rutland, VT 05701

*Town News Continued from pg. 1*

houses our Chief and Deputy Chief, two patrol officers, a school resource officer, two special officers (our first and second constables), an administrator, and a police dog.

Rutland Town is enormously grateful to Chief Dumas for his service to our town, for his steady and thoughtful guidance, and for helping us understand what our town needs for police services now and in the future.

The Select Board has begun to craft town budgets for FY 2026–27, to be voted on at March 2026 Town Meeting. Committees are meeting with department heads to build department budgets, and all budgets will be reviewed for at a special Select Board meeting on December 9.

The board recently agreed to propose a 3% COLA increase for town employees. The board has also created a policy which will allow employees to opt-out of the town's health insurance coverage if they can be covered under a family member's policy. In exchange, participating employees will receive a cash payout at half the value of what the town would otherwise pay. This gives qualifying employees additional income while saving the town money.

In addition to its budget work, town officials are monitoring demolition of most of the existing Diamond Run Mall. We are also meeting with representatives of the new Walmart redevelopment project at that site. Act 250 requires that any new development (or redevelopment in this case) not create an unreasonable burden on the ability of the local governments to provide municipal or governmental services. We want to make sure that our existing town services, especially fire and police departments, have the equipment and staffing to serve the new Walmart. The Select Board and the Town Planning Commission both have a say under Act 250, and the Town Planning Commission will also weigh in on whether the redevelopment of the mall will comply with our Town Plan.

The Rutland Town Select Board meets every other Tuesday evening at 6 p.m. The public is always welcome in person at Town Hall in Center Rutland, or via zoom. You can find meeting agendas, zoom information, and contact information on the town website at <https://www.rutlandtown.com/>. We are glad to hear from you anytime.



**Never miss an issue!**

**Read The Circle online at**

**[www.rutlandtown.com/the-circle](https://www.rutlandtown.com/the-circle)**

## NEWS FROM THE REC

*By Director Michael Rowe*

Hello All,

Well fall is in full swing and that means winter is coming. I want to thank all those involved with our fall soccer program that was a huge success! Huge thank you to Collin, Zach, Katie, Lindsey, Patty, Karen, Brian and all the other parents who helped out.

Our seniors have been very busy with trips to Killington, Baxters Restaurant and our luncheon on November 18 at the Center Fire Station for our Thanksgiving meal. Our December lunch will be on the 16th at 11:15 at school with a lunch of chicken and biscuits with our middle school jazz band playing some tunes.

Basketball season has started and a game schedule will be posted on the website, so check out a game. The skating rink is up at RTS and if mother nature helps us out we will be offering skating during the winter, more info to follow.

At Northwood Park you can hike the trails and if you are looking for a safe place to take the kiddos sliding, the hill next to the tennis courts is a great place to have fun. You can slide almost into the pool! Speaking of the pool, we are also starting to plan for a new pool, yes we are. So how can you help? We are looking for people in the community who would like to be part of the beginning stages of looking at replacing the current pool. If you are interested please contact me at [recreation@rutlandtown.com](mailto:recreation@rutlandtown.com)

As always if you have any programming ideas please just let me know. Enjoy the holiday season!

### Opportunities to Get Involved

RTS is always looking for substitutes and volunteers. If you are interested in becoming a substitute, please contact Cindy Ondria, GRCSU Substitute Coordinator, at [cindy.ondria@grcsu.org](mailto:cindy.ondria@grcsu.org), (802) 775-0566 ext. 2126. Community members are welcome to visit the school and meet with Principal Sarah Tetzlaff anytime. Feel free to call the office at (802) 775-0566 to schedule an appointment. Check out the school website ( <https://rts.grcsu.org>) and Facebook page to stay up-to-date on all things happening at Rutland Town School!

## Rutland Free Library

From Director Randal Smathers

You may have heard that Rutland Free Library may be an emergency shelter this winter. The City of Rutland owns the building and pays the bulk of building-associated costs, so when they asked, we agreed to try to make it work. As of this writing, there are still a couple of hurdles to clear (fire marshal, insurance).

It's important to note that, regardless of the outcome, we will not be interrupting regular library programs to open the Fox Room as a shelter. We're only open two nights a week, and most often program presenters cancel events in harsh weather conditions as turnout suffers in temperatures of minus 10 or 20 degrees.

Please see the library website at [www.rutlandfree.org](http://www.rutlandfree.org) for updates. And a friendly reminder that we do close for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Years Day. Our annual New Years Eve Ball for little celebrants is happening at 4 PM on Dec. 31 until closing!

### Lots to do

The librarians got together and dreamed up an all-ages reading challenge. It kicks off on Dec. 15 and runs for 11 weeks. Complete each week's challenge to get a free book from our partner Phoenix Books of Rutland! Stop in anytime on or after Dec. 15 to sign up. And please see the online calendar for all the programs our children's and teens' librarians put on during school winter break. There's something going on all the time!

### Thanks!

Special thanks to everyone who donates to the library's annual appeal. A group of supporters got together and agreed to match the first \$15,000 in donations this year, and the Friends of Rutland Free Library are matching the first \$2,000 from new donors. Private donations are important both for the dollars they represent and because they show direct support from folks, in addition to tax funding that we get from Rutland Town, City, Mendon, Tinmouth and Ira.



*Photo credit:  
Sheri Bathalon/RTS*  
Pictured below: Miss Erin's Pre-K had a great week exploring pumpkins! We finished the week by painting our own pumpkins!  
Pictured left: Mini Pizza Day with Mrs. Manovill.



*Planning Commission Con't. from pg. 1*  
consulted about the park's use, the placement of amenities, and the content of interpretive information. Local community groups such as historical societies and groups will also be invited to participate and share their input. The Rutland Town Planning Commission will coordinate this outreach, with public meetings anticipated to start in January and February.

In addition, beginning next spring, town crews and volunteers plan to start on-site work such as identifying and removing invasive plants, clearing dead trees, and cutting back brush. This effort will be coordinated by Recreation Director Mike Rowe and the Select Board Recreation Committee.

Meanwhile, the town continues to seek grant funding to supplement municipal funds in this construction and for the purchase of pocket park amenities such as picnic tables, ADA-accessible trails, and an overlook. Would you like to be part of this exciting project? We're looking for volunteers for the initial on-site work and in determining the content of the main kiosk and potentially additional signage in the park. If you're interested, please let us know.

- Clearing Trees & Vegetation: Mike Rowe, Recreation Director at [Recreation@rutlandtown.com](mailto:Recreation@rutlandtown.com)
- Historical & Cultural Information: Barbara Noyes Pulling, Planning Commission at [PlanningCommission@rutlandtown.com](mailto:PlanningCommission@rutlandtown.com)

Thank you in advance. If you're interested in seeing the plans for the pocket park, stop by the town office.



Photo credit:  
Aaron Audet

The  
Rutland  
Town  
Band  
marching  
in the  
2025  
Halloween  
Parade!



## RTS Music

From Aaron Audet

The Rutland Town Band had a very successful Halloween Parade this year. We won "Best Costumed Marching Band" with our Ozzy Osbourne theme "Crazy Train." We marched with 70 band students 5th-8th grade. The kids did a phenomenal job marching and playing their memorized music parts. Thanks so much to all the parents, RTS staff and the community for their support.

### **RUTLAND TOWN BAND CONCERTS**

Wednesday, December 10 :

K-4 Concert at 6 p.m.

Wednesday, December 17:

5-8 Band and Chorus Concert at 6 p.m.

## *Rutland Town Seniors Update*

*From Michael Rowe*

Well it looks like we have started the fall/winter weather. Which means it must be the start of the holiday season. Just an update that our annual Thanksgiving lunch was held on November 18 at 11:15 a.m. It was held at the fire station in Center Rutland, with Kamudas Market providing us with the most tasty meal of turkey, stuffing and all the fixings including dessert. If you have any questions please just let me know.

## **AN UPDATE FROM THE DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR**

*By Delinquent Tax Collector Don Chioffi*

### **A REMINDER ABOUT TAX OBLIGATIONS**

We all receive many benefits from our town in return for paying our property taxes in a timely manner. Our police protect us, our roads are properly maintained, and very well, I might add. Our properties are protected by a quality volunteer fire department with the best of equipment, housing and fire apparatus. We enjoy one of the finest recreation areas and dedicated employees to administer programs there and I dare say we have one of the cleanest and well run transfer stations in the state. Our school system, which represents about 85% of our property tax bill, is dedicated to providing a quality and diverse education for our youth.

It is actually a pretty serious theft of services for anyone to take the benefits of all these services and expect others to pay for them by being continually delinquent and failing to pay tax bills on a timely basis. That being said, we all know that life is often charged with uncertainty and that there are personal situations that require as much compassion as can be reasonable as well as fair to all.

As your Delinquent Tax Collector I have tried to be as reasonable as possible with those that find themselves delinquent and the policy that I have used in the past has been to list those in the Town Report with an asterisk indicating that they have agreed, either in writing or verbally, to pay the amounts due. I am changing that policy this year in hopes to winnow down the delinquent total to the lowest in town history.

So this year anyone who signs a written agreement with me to pay, on a regular basis, an agreeable amount that will clear up their delinquency **WILL NOT HAVE THEIR NAME PUBLISHED IN THE TOWN REPORT.** My hope is that this change in my policy will result in a significant reduction in our total delinquencies. We are, even now, one of the lowest delinquency towns anywhere in the state and certainly in our county but my goal is to reduce the in our county but my goal is to reduce the amount even more and as close to ZERO as possible. Anyone who is delinquent should contact me immediately to discuss an agreement.

Wishing you all a happy holiday season, I remain dedicated to a very solvent Rutland Town.

## From the Rutland Town School Board

By Chairperson Tim Hammond,  
and GRCSU Superintendent Chris Sell

Dear Rutland Town School District and GRCSU community members,  
As we begin developing the FY'27 school budgets within the Rutland Town School District (RTSD), we invite you to join us in building a budget that reflects our shared commitment to academic excellence, student well-being, and the overall success of our schools.

The budget process is a collaborative effort, and the input of our stakeholders—parents, students, staff, community members, and local organizations—is invaluable. We aim to foster a transparent and inclusive dialogue throughout the budgeting process to ensure our students' needs are met while remaining fiscally responsible.

### *Key Considerations for the FY'27 Budget*

As in previous years, this year's budget is guided by several key priorities that align with our GRCSU Strategic Plan and each school's Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP). Together, these priorities reflect our shared commitment to supporting students, staff, and the broader community.

- **Academic Achievement:** We will continue to invest in classroom resources that support high-quality teaching and learning. This includes professional development for educators and targeted interventions to ensure every student has the opportunity to succeed.
- **Student Support Services:** The well-being of our students remains at the heart of our work. Our budget strengthens mental health, wellness, and social-emotional supports so that every child feels safe, valued, and ready to learn.
- **Staffing and Personnel:** Our educators and support staff are the foundation of our schools. We are carefully managing staffing costs—including salaries, benefits, and negotiated agreements—to attract and retain the talented professionals who make a difference every day.
- **Facilities and Improvements:** We are planning thoughtfully for ongoing maintenance and future capital projects to ensure our school buildings remain safe, welcoming, and conducive to learning.
- **State and Federal Requirements:** We will continue to meet important state and federal obligations, such as special education and equity initiatives, while balancing their impact on our overall financial plan.

### *What to Expect*

We are committed to a clear and transparent budget process. Over the next few months, we will:

- Provide opportunities to engage in collaborative discussions at local board meetings. You can ask questions, share feedback, understand the budget's impact on our schools, and ensure that all voices are heard as we work together to align priorities with fiscal realities.

- **Provide Regular Updates:** We will share timely information about cost drivers, including personnel costs, inflation, healthcare, and special education, and how they affect our financial planning.

### *How You Can Participate*

Your involvement is crucial to this process. We encourage you to:

- **Attend RTSD School Board Meetings:** These meetings are typically held at the Rutland Town School (1612 Post Road, Rutland), offer insight into the budgeting process, and provide opportunities for feedback and discussion. Here is a list of upcoming RTSD board meetings:

- November 10 at 6 p.m. at RTS, Post Rd.
- December 9 at 6 p.m.
- January 13 at 6 p.m.
- January Pre-Town Meeting - TBD
- February 10 at 6 p.m.
- March 2 at 7 p.m. (RTSD Annual Town Meeting at Rutland Town School)

- **Stay Informed:** The GRCSU website provides regular updates and budget materials. A link to this information can be found here (<https://grcsu.org/budget-information/>).

- **Ask Questions and Share Input:** We highly value your perspectives and encourage you to contact school and Central Office leaders and RTSD board members or attend board meetings to share your insights. Your feedback is crucial in shaping our decisions and initiatives, ensuring they reflect the needs and priorities of our community. Our goal is to create a budget that balances the needs of our students and staff with our fiscal responsibilities to our taxpayers. With your support, we can ensure that we continue to provide the highest-quality education while responsibly managing our resources. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to our students and schools. Together, we can create a budget that supports our community's bright future.

Sincerely,

Tim Hammond

Rutland Town School District Board Chair

Chris Sell

Superintendent / Greater Rutland County Supervisory Union

### GRCSU Vision (Motto)

Engaged, Empowered, and Prepared for tomorrow  
GRCSU Mission

Our mission is to engage and empower students to achieve academic and personal success, preparing them to be responsible citizens who embrace a love for learning.

# Highway Happenings

By Road Commissioner Dave Sears



Well, here we are. Summer is gone. Autumn is a memory. Winter is upon us. We always wonder, where did it go?

We had a busy construction season. A major accomplishment is always paving. We paved about a mile of roads in the town this summer. There were two streets that got all of the attention. East Pittsford Road from the Wynnridge development, east to the Rutland Town/Pittsford town line. This project required a full reclamation of the road. This operation grinds the existing asphalt and blends it with the subbase to create a stronger base for the new asphalt.

Ruth Avenue is the other street that received the same treatment. Both sections of street should perform well into the future.

We cleaned 68 culverts and cleaned several culvert ditches throughout the season. There are many more that need attention and we are working our way to them. Several driveway culverts were replaced. Now we are onto winter.

We are as ready as we can be for the upcoming season. As a reminder, Rutland Town, like the State of Vermont has a Safe Roads Policy. We do our best to keep the roads as safe as possible for travel. That does not mean that the roads will always be clear. Please use caution during snow events. We want everyone to make it to their destinations safely.

Lastly, from all of us in the Highway Department, we wish you all a Safe and Happy Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years seasons.

Be Safe!!



Photo credit: RTS

Above: Stuff-A-Bus Kickoff Assembly.

## A REPORT FROM YOUR LISTERS

By Marcia Chioffi

Autumn greetings from the Listers Office. We trust everyone had a great summer and looking forward to the upcoming holiday season.

This year after mailing the 25-26 tax bills, we received a more than average amount of mail returned to us from the post office. Please remember if there is a change of address, contact the Listers Office so that we can update your information. If you have not received a tax bill, this does not absolve you from paying your bill and you will be delinquent. Contact the Clerk's Office and a copy will be mailed to you. If your name has changed, you will need to fill out a change-of-name form and file with the Town Clerk.

Tax bills on properties that have occurred after April 1 will be sent to the owner of record at time of closing. Please see below the VT Statute that addresses this: *Determining the Owner excerpt from Lister and Assessor Handbook GB-1143*

- Taxable real estate is to be listed to the last owner or possessor on April 1. 32 V.S.A. § 3651.
- Title to property transfers when the deed is signed and delivered to the buyer, which typically

occurs at closing.

However, some towns use the recording date because this is when information becomes available to them. Listers may decide which date to use but should maintain consistency in practice. Rutland Town uses the closing date when processing transfers.

The mandatory reappraisal documents have been sent to the state. PVR has been informed that no bid proposals were received by the town. We are in a holding pattern until we receive some guidance from PVR. Hopefully we will have more information to post in the next issue of *The Circle*.

There will be a vacancy in the Listers Office next year in March. If anyone is interested, you must file your petition with the Town Clerk on or before January 26, 2026.

Wishing you all a very Happy Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas.



FROM THE TOWN  
CLERK AND TREASURER

*By Kari Clark*

Greetings from your town office. As we say goodbye to 2025 and hello to 2026, we will be extending a fond farewell and happy retirement to our dear friend and colleague Susan McGee. For 11 years, she has been a constant in the business office and a familiar face to many as they enter. Her last day will be December 31. Susan has been through some of the most challenging times here at the office and continued to persevere despite employee turnover, COVID and countless elections. Her humor, wit and her extensive accounting knowledge will be truly missed. We wish her the very best in retirement and are excited for her new endeavors. Personally, I'd like to extend my gratitude to her for taking in this new clerk and treasurer almost 6 years ago. She taught me everything she knows and became one of my dearest friends. I will miss you.

Until we find someone to fill Susan's shoes, the office will function with me and Deborah. We ask for your patience during this transition. Our first order of business will be Town Meeting. Tuesday March 3, 2026, we will vote on the town articles and budgets at your respectable polling locations. Your town department heads are currently building these budgets. If you're interested in hearing how this is done and would like to join these discussions, please visit our town website or Facebook page to learn more about the dates and times these meetings are being held. Otherwise, you can join us in January for our pre-town meeting. We will also be meeting the night before the March election to discuss the articles and budgets. Be on the lookout for more information.

If you would like to have an article placed on our town ballot, or if you would like to run as a candidate in our local election, petitions must be submitted to me. The deadline for new articles is January 15 and for a candidate it is January 26. Contact the office for more information about this if you are interested. Lastly, I'd like to remind you that town property taxes are due January 10, 2026 and then again May 10, 2026. This year we included a pink informational sheet with your tax bill. Refer to that for any questions you might have regarding the payment of your taxes. If you need another copy, I have placed one on our town Facebook page and at [www.rutlandtown.com](http://www.rutlandtown.com) for reference.

Happy Holidays and Cheers to a Great New Year!

**The Days Are Just Packed**



Photo credit: RTS

Pictured top: 3/4 Boys Soccer. Middle: Pre-K to 4th Grade K-9 Assembly. Bottom: A wonderful Forest Friday!

# Wonderfeet Kids' Museum

By Paula Townsend, Education Coordinator

Our Truck or Treat event was a huge success! Were you there? We saw over five thousand kids and families, and this event has truly become a staple of downtown Rutland. A huge thank you to the community and all the generous donors for being a part of it with us.

We are proud to have served 147 Rutland County families over the past year! In partnership with Building Bright Futures, we offered a free, one year membership to families with children aged 1-2, creating a strong community and crucial stepping stone for early development. Now that the snow is falling, exciting times are here at Wonderfeet Kids' Museum! This holiday season, we will be hosting our special, ticketed Santa's Workshop on Sunday, November 30 and Saturday, December 6. This special event features time with Santa, a chance to make and take keepsake crafts, and special treats for everyone to share and enjoy! We really hope you and the special little one in your life will join us for some holiday magic. Tickets are available on the Wonderfeet website at [www.wonderfeetkidsmuseum.org](http://www.wonderfeetkidsmuseum.org).

In addition, we will host a Wonderfeet Wonderland on Sunday, December 7. For a \$15 charge, there will be three wonderful winter crafts for kids to make and take home. For more information, just contact the museum.

Wonderfeet Kids' Museum is taking our signature spirit of fun to the golf course, and this time, the fun is all for adults! Join us for our second annual Wondertee Indoor Golf Tournament at Stonehedge Indoor Golf on Saturday, January 24, 2026. To register a

team, please call Stonehedge directly at 802-779-9595. If you are interested in sponsorship opportunities, please email [wonderfeetevents@wkmvt.org](mailto:wonderfeetevents@wkmvt.org).

Have time to visit Wonderfeet during the week? It Takes a Village, our free playgroup and support group for babies and toddlers and their caregivers, takes place every Monday from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. Join us for the Whiz Kid Wednesday STEAM program from 11:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Every Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., join us for Littles with Wiggles—this is our so-much-fun dance class led by Ms. Nicole for all our friends that love to boogie! (This will be moving to Tuesday in the new year!)

Fatherhood Fridays, in conjunction with Rutland County Parent Child Center, is a free playgroup for male caregivers that takes place the first Friday of every month from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Stay tuned for our LEGO SPIKE Club, coming this January.

For more information on any of our weekly programs, please contact [guestservices@wkmvt.org](mailto:guestservices@wkmvt.org). And don't forget the opportunity to book field trips and birthday parties at Wonderfeet! If you are interested, please reach out to [guestservices@wkmvt.org](mailto:guestservices@wkmvt.org) for more information.

Wonderfeet Kids' Museum is located at 66 Merchants Row in the GMP Energy Innovation Center. We are open Tuesday through Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. As we enter the holiday season and winter months, please check our website and Facebook page for any program or event changes.



Photo credits: Left: JP Fagnant. Right: RTS

Pictured top left: Nature Art seen along Northwood Trail. Right: Practicing for the 2025 Halloween Parade.

## Every Dog Has Its Day!

Rutland Town Police Officer Plakas and Rutland City Police Officer Rajda invited PreK-4th grade students at Rutland Town School for an educational K9 presentation. Students had the chance to ask questions and learn how K9s are trained to track, find, and assist officers in our community. Big thank you to both officers for taking the time to talk with our students!



## Parachuting in PE!

From RTS Teacher Keith Schneider

Two pictures of our PreK Students using the parachute in PE!

Students play with the parachute in Physical Education to practice various locomotor skills, cooperative skills, and enjoyment!



## Gilfeather Turnip Contest!



Mrs. McDougall, RTS 7th and 8th grade Science Teacher, partnered with the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets to pilot a program connecting Vermont youth to our state vegetable, the Gilfeather Turnip.

This spring, students received a packet of seeds and resources for growing and preparing this unique turnip, and participated in a fun contest with 10–15 other Vermont schools to see who could grow the heaviest turnip!

Our largest turnip harvested was about 4 pounds! A photo of it on the scale was submitted to Terry Smith at the Vermont Department of Agriculture, and a bag of turnips was shared with Mr. Maniery and our amazing kitchen staff.

A big thank you to our 7th and 8th-grade students for their participation, and to Ms. Tetzlaff and Mr. Trayah for their support and help with this project!



Rutland Town School  
1612 Post Road  
Rutland, VT 05701

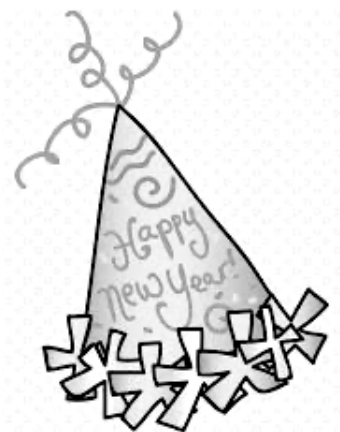
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U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit No. 28  
Rutland, VT

Deliver to Addressee  
or Current Resident

**Rutland Town School ... Where Futures Begin!**

## **Rutland Town Community Calendar**

DEC	5	RTS Student Half Day
	10	RTS Band Concert - 6 p.m.
	16	Select Board meeting - 6 p.m.
	17	RTS Band Concert - 6 p.m.
	19	RTS Half Day
	22	RTS Winter Break through Jan. 2
	30	Select Board meeting - 6 p.m.
JAN	9	RTS Student Half Day
	13	Select Board meeting 6 p.m.
	15	Planning Commission meeting - 6:30 p.m.
	19	RTS No School - MLK Day
	27	Select Board meeting - 6 p.m.



Town & School websites: [rutlandtown.com](http://rutlandtown.com) & [rutlandtownschool.org](http://rutlandtownschool.org)  
*Happy Holidays!*